

NV Senator Ensign not inclined to support Filipino WWII Veterans in RP

by DYMPHNA CALICA-LA PUTT
AJPress



LAS VEGAS – Not wanting to raise the standard of living of war veterans living in the Philippines, Nevada Senator John Ensign is not inclined to support a move to increase the federal benefits of these former soldiers.

“If they got the same amount of money as veterans here, we would basically allow them to live at a much higher level of standard of living than any veterans that we provide for in the United States,” Ensign said.

The senator spoke during a monthly luncheon of the Asian Chamber of Commerce at the Palace Station Hotel, Las Vegas, last Friday, May 29.

Rozita Lee, vice chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations, had asked Sen. Ensign what he would do with regard to the campaign for full equity for Filipino World War II veterans living in the Philippines.

In a separate interview, Lee said the Filipino community is disappointed over disparate compensations for veterans based on where they currently reside.

“Why should there be different compensations made to veterans because of where they live?” she told the *Asian Journal*.

“They fought in the same war side by side with American soldiers, caught the same bullets the enemy fired, fought and died for America. They were promised by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt that they would be accorded the same benefits as American soldiers,” she added.

It will be recalled that during deliberations in Congress early this year, Sen. Ensign voted against giving these war veterans the same amount as those living in the United States.

As a result, the US government authorized one-time lump sum payments of \$15,000 each

to Filipino World War II veterans who are US citizens as well as those residing in the United States. Veterans who fought in the same war, but are currently living in the Philippines were given a smaller amount of only \$9,000.

The financial compensation package was part of the Obama administration’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which was signed into law last February.

Filipino-American groups questioned the vote of the Nevada Republican senator whose paternal grandfather was born in the Philippines and is half-Filipino. This makes Ensign one-eighth Filipino.

At the luncheon last Friday, May 29, Sen. Ensign asked members of the Asian Chamber of Commerce to understand his vote.

“I just didn’t think it was right. That is why I voted against it. I hope you understand,” he said.

He added, “I didn’t think that the money we were giving veterans living in the Philippines was right because the standard of living is a lot less there.”

It was almost 60 years ago when US President Franklin Roosevelt promised Filipinos military benefits if they fight as soldiers with the American military against the invading Japanese during World War II. However, in 1946, the US Congress passed the Rescission Act which stripped Filipinos of the benefits they were promised. Of the 66 countries allied with the United States during the war, only Filipinos were denied military benefits.

Since then, several bills have been introduced in Congress in

an attempt to give full equity to these Filipino war veterans.

It was only last February that the US government finally set aside \$198 million for benefits of Filipino veterans. Of the over 200,000 Filipinos who fought alongside American soldiers 60 years ago, fewer than 18,000 are alive today.

But several Filipino-American groups are still working to give full equity to these veterans and their families. The National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity is spearheading the campaign. ■

Statement by the President on the transition to all-digital programming

WASHINGTON – On June 12 the nation’s full-power television stations will switch to all-digital programming. The transition to digital will free up airwaves for broadband and enhanced emergency communications for our police officers, firefighters, and other first responders.

“In February, I worked with Congress to postpone the deadline television broadcasters had to end their analog signals, because it was clear that millions of Americans would have been left in the dark if the conversion had gone on as planned. I directed key members of my Administration to reach out and help Americans, especially those in our most vulnerable communities, to make the switch to digital television,” the President said. ■

Michelle Obama replaces chief of staff

WASHINGTON – First lady Michelle Obama is replacing her chief of staff with a longtime friend and adviser from Chicago.

Jackie Norris will become a senior adviser to the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Replacing Norris as chief of staff will be Mrs. Obama’s longtime friend Susan Sher.

Sher joined the administration as an associate counsel to the president. Sher and Mrs. Obama worked together at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

Norris worked on the president’s campaign in Iowa.

Norris will continue to work with the first lady’s office and the administration as it implements a new law to expand national community service programs. (AP)

Pacquiao is 57th in Forbes...

PAGE A1 ◀

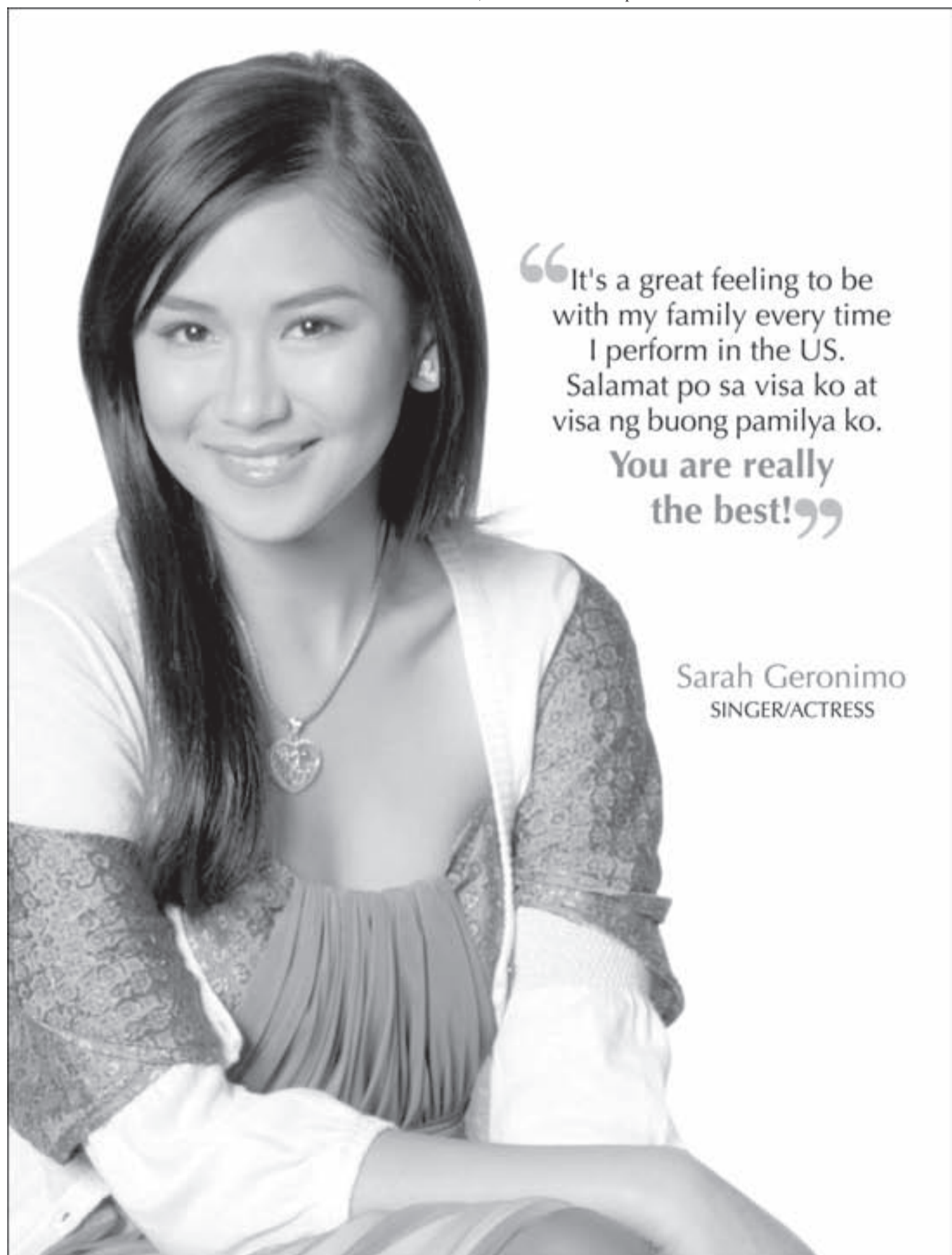
1 spot and Oprah Winfrey ranked 2nd, Madonna 3rd, and Beyonce Knowles 4th rounds out the top four.

Notable athletes Tiger Woods ranked 5th, Kobe Bryant 10th, Michael Jordan and Lebron James placed 18th and 19th, respectively. Indy car racer Danica Patrick ranked 100.

According to Forbes, Pacquiao earned \$40 million in entertainment income from June 2008 to June 2009.

Earlier in the year, Pacquiao made it into *Time Magazine’s* 100 Most Influential People. ■

888myTravel.com Call: 310-481-2280			Airfares, Cruises, Hotels, Tours Travel Insurance & Custom Vacations		
Los Angeles to Manila - Roundtrip			Discover Asia - Hotel, Transfer & Tour		
ASIANA	KOREAN	NORTHWEST	4-Days 3-Nights Bangkok-Pattaya	\$	209.00
\$ 538.00	\$ 478.00	\$ 628.00	3-Days 2 Nights Hong Kong	\$	199.00
Aug11-Nov06	Jul01-Jul18	Jun06-Jul01	4-Days 3-Nights Beijing - China	\$	329.00
ASIANA	KOREAN	EVA AIR	3-Days 2 Nights Kuala Lumpur	\$	349.00
\$ 618.00	\$ 468.00	\$ 658.00	3-Days 2 Nights Singapore	\$	289.00
Nov07-Nov27	Jul19-Aug21	Aug24-Nov30	Europe Tour and Cruise Specials		
PAL	PAL	HAWAIIAN	4-Days Canada New England Cruise	\$	299.00
\$ 668.00	\$ 578.00	\$ 698.00	7-Days Cranial Canada Cruise	\$	429.00
Nov-Aug20	Aug21-Oct30	Sep01-Dec30	9-Days France	\$	1,069.00
Manila to Los Angeles			10-Days Splendor of Italy	\$	1,359.00
PAL	KOREAN	HAWAIIAN	11-Days Oberammergau	\$	2,209.00
\$ 368.00	\$ 488.00	\$ 668.00	3-Days 2-Nites Hotel Specials		
One Way	One Way	Roundtrip	Boracay (hotel + transfer)	\$	98.00
Philippine Hotels (Lowest Price! - Call us)			Palawan (hotel + transfer)	\$	98.00
Intercontinental	Shangri-La Hotels	Cebu Hilton	Cebu (hotel + transfer)	\$	118.00
Dual Nikko	Boracay Regency	El Nido Resorts	Bohol (hotel + transfer + tour)	\$	128.00
<small>All hotels, packages, cruises & tours rate are based on twin occupancy. * Now Hiring Travel Agents * Taxes & Fuel fees NOT included. Prices subject to change without notice. All Friends Travel & Tours Inc. 2330 Westwood Blvd. Suite 200 * Los Angeles, CA 90064 * CST #206087-40 * Promo Code: AJ060609</small>					



“It’s a great feeling to be with my family every time I perform in the US. Salamat po sa visa ko at visa ng buong pamilya ko. You are really the best!”

Sarah Geronimo
SINGER/ACTRESS

Looking For The Perfect Career?

We'll Point You In The Right Direction.



The Annenberg School of Nursing presents a special open house. Learn what it takes to become a vocational nurse and the generous financial aid available, including forgivable loans, low tuition, low loan rates and more*...

Reservations required. For information and reservations, contact us at 818-757-4431 ASN@jha.org www.jha.org

(*Based on eligibility, qualifications and the Home's recruiting needs.)



Tuesday, June 16

Three informational presentations about the Annenberg School of Nursing program at 4, 5 and 6 p.m. followed by tours of skills lab, computer center and classroom. Refreshments will be served.

Los Angeles Jewish Home Grancell Village 7150 Tampa Avenue Reseda, CA 91335

To schedule a phone or in-person consultation, call

Toll free 1 (866) 487-3465
1 (866) GURFINKEL

MICHAEL GURFINKEL LAW OFFICES

A Full Service Immigration Law Firm

www.gurfinkel.com

LOS ANGELES • SAN FRANCISCO • NEW YORK • PHILIPPINES

Michael J. Gurfinkel is licensed, and an active member of the State Bar of California and New York. All immigration services are provided by, or under the supervision of an active member of the State Bar of California. Each case is different. The information contained herein, including testimonials, "Success Stories" or endorsements are of general nature, and not intended to apply to any particular case, and do not constitute a prediction, warranty, guarantee or legal advice regarding the outcome of your legal matter. No attorney-client relationship is, or shall be, established hereby.